

# Competition Guidelines



## A Moment Worth Preserving

Every generation inherits the American story—and adds its own chapter.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, America Is the Greatest Story Ever Told invites students across the country to pause, reflect, and respond. Through art and writing, students are asked to engage with America’s history, ideals, struggles, and aspirations, capturing how the story has been told—and how it is still being written.

This project is designed as a **time capsule of America’s youth** in 2026: their voices, interpretations, and creative expressions preserved at a once-in-a-generation milestone.

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## The Project at a Glance

**Categories:** Art and Writing

**Age Divisions:**

- Grades 3–5
- Grades 6–8
- Grades 9–12

**Eligibility:** Any 3-12 student- whether it be public, private, charter, home-school, micro-school, etc.

**Evaluation:** Entirely merit-based, using a published rubric focused on originality, historical understanding, clarity, and craftsmanship

**Judging:** By a panel, there will be no voting, fundraising, or popularity components

**Special Note:** This competition is limited to the first 1,500 entries

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## How Submissions Are Reviewed:

All submissions are evaluated solely on merit using a published rubric. Reviewers consider how clearly the student responds to the prompt, the originality and depth of thought, the quality of written and artistic expression, and how well the art and writing work together. Students are reviewed within grade bands to ensure age-appropriate evaluation. No public voting, random selection, or chance-based criteria are used.



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**Recognition & Awards:** Selected student work will be recognized in two ways

### Publication

- The top 250 entries nationwide will be professionally edited and published in a commemorative coffee-table book marking America's 250th anniversary.
- The volume is intended for long-term educational and archival use, preserving student voices as part of this historic moment.

### Prices

- Grades 9-12: 1st Prize \$1,500; 2nd Prize \$750
- Grades 6-8: 1st Prize \$1,000; 2nd Prize \$500
- Grades 3-5: 1st Prize \$500; 2nd Prize \$250

Educators whose students receive prize recognition OR who get over 75% of their class to participate in the competition will receive a complimentary patriotic and civic-themed book bundle for their classroom.

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## For Teachers and Families

Participation in this project is intentionally straightforward. All student entries must be submitted with parent or legal guardian permission, as participants are K–12 students. There is no requirement to integrate the project into classroom instruction, and participation does not involve public promotion or social media activity.

Student privacy is respected, and only limited identifying information is used in public recognition unless families request otherwise.

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## A Living Record

The 250th anniversary of the United States is not only a commemoration of the past—it is a record of the present.

America Is the Greatest Story Ever Told exists to capture how young Americans see their country at this moment in time, creating a permanent record of thought, creativity, and civic reflection that will endure long after the anniversary year has passed.

